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Cabinet Members Are Roving for Ronnie This Year

By TERENCE HUNT

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In less than 40 hours, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige sped through five states and three time zones, covered 4,600 miles, spoke at 15 political fundraisers, shook hundreds of hands and gave news interviews almost everywhere his chartered jet touched down.

Drew Lewis, secretary of transportation, made 13 speeches on a three-day swing through California, and is booked for upwards of 40 more political events across the country before the Nov. 2 election.

Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan has 20 out-of-town fundraisers in his schedule book. Ambassador Bill Brock, the administration's trade negotiator, will be on the road at least 17 days for more than two dozen political appearances.

The roving Cabinet members are among the administration's top stars on the campaign circuit this fall — traveling salesmen for President Reagan's policies and drumbeaters for Republican candidates trying to raise money and attract votes.

From \$15-a-person barbeques in California to \$1,000-a-head breakfast fundraisers in Washington, travel-weary Cabinet members are turning up in big cities and small towns to influence races the White House wants to win.

In an election year, politicking by Cabinet members is commonplace. By tradition, exceptions to the rule are the secretaries of state and defense, the director of the CIA and the attorney general.

But this year, even White House chief of staff James A. Baker III and counselor Edwin Meese III are making some political trips, perhaps a dozen in all.

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